

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28339 242242Z
ACTION EUR-12

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-----100627 242252Z /12
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6502
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, ASEC
SUBJECT: FIRE AMERICAN EMBASSY PARIS - SITUATION
REPORT NO. 1

1. AT 2030 HOURS THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, AN ELECTRICAL SMOKE REPORT WAS MADE TO THE MARINE GUARD AT AMERICAN EMBASSY PARIS, MAIN BUILDING A. INVESTIGATION REVEALED A SUSPECTED ELECTRICAL FIRE WELL IN PROGRESS IN ROOM 235 ON THE SECOND FLOOR. ROOM IS RECEPTION TO COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR.

2. MARINES CLOSED DOORS TO AFFECTED AREA, ALERTED THROUGH EMBASSY SWITCHBOARD CITY FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS, ACTUATED FIRE ALARM, AND NOTIFIED COMM CENTER. MARINES PROCEEDED TO RETAIN THE FIRE THROUGH USE OF ELECTRICAL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND FIRE WATER HOSE. AMBASSADOR HARTMAN AND APPROPRIATE EMBASSY PERSONNEL ALSO WERE NOTIFIED AND PROCEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO THE EMBASSY TO SUPERVISE FIRE CONTAINMENT AND ASSESS DAMAGE. OPERATIONS CENTER WAS NOTIFIED OF FIRE AND PROGRESS OF CONTAINMENT BY TELEPHONE.

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3. PARIS CITY FIRE AND POLICE PERSONNEL ARRIVED ON THE SCENE IN APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES AND SUCCEEDED WITH MARINE GUARD ASSISTANCE IN PUTTING OUT THE FIRE AT APPROXIMATELY 2130. DAMAGE TO ROOM 235 WAS EXTENSIVE ALSO DESTROYING FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT. TWO ADJOINING OFFICES RECEIVED EXTENSIVE SMOKE DAMAGE. DAMAGE ASSESSED AT APPROXIMATELY \$20,000.

4. AS PRECAUTION, TWO MARINES WHO ARRIVED ON SCENE INITIALLY AND WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN CONTAINING FIRE ARE BEING TAKEN TO HOSPITAL FOR OBSERVATION FOR POSSIBLE SMOKE INHALATION.

5. NO POSSIBLE COMPROMISE OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL AND PARIS CITY FIRE PERSONNEL WERE ESCORTED AT ALL TIMES.

6. CITY FIREMEN NOT EXPERT BUT SUSPECT FIRE CAUSED BY SHORT CIRCUIT IN WALL PLUG CONNECTION FOR ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT NOTIFYING SY FIRE INVESTIGATOR LANDLER (PHONETIC), BELIEVED ON FIRE PREVENTION SECURITY AT AMEMBASSY LONDON, OF INCIDENT AND REQUEST HIS IMMEDIATE TRAVEL TO PARIS TO INVESTIGATE FIRE AND DETERMINE POSSIBLE CAUSE.

7. AMBASSADOR HARTMAN AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS SECURED AREA AT 2300, WITH APPROPRIATE MEASURES TAKEN FOR 24 HOUR SURVEILLANCE OF AFFECTED AREA. ELECTRICAL POWER TO AREA ALSO DISCONNECTED.

8. WILL PROVIDE DETAILED REPORT ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 25.
HARTMAN

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